take the other extreme. Place man so low that he cannot fall, chain him so down that he cannot rise, and again his inborn character develops itself. The virtues which proceed from a sense of shame and a fear of offence, now disappear, as well as all those which originate in a desire to rise in society. Discontent and grumbling, envy and malignity, leading to dishonesty and reckless criminality, become the characteristics of this state of society ; just as luxury and licentiousness, indolence and a selfish indifference to all human interests, are the distinguishing features of those who are in the enjoyment of prosperity which cannot be broken. In the one state, society, with its sunk and dangerous classes, spreads crime like a malaria, and is ready for revolution ; while in the other, it abandons itself to the softest and yet most selfish effeminacy, running after every frivolity, ready to contend for nothing but its own pleasures, and to toil for nothing but the retention of its ease. Our earth in the one state becomes bare and barren, and yet wild, rugged, and horrific, with clashing cataracts, and dizzy and headlong precipices ; and in the other state, like the dead swamps of moist tropical climates, polluting the very atmosphere, and spreading disease and death by the excess of its putrid and putrefying luxuriance.

The times when these adventitious props which keep up society are removed, have generally been times of excessive criminality, Take the seasons when a nation is intoxicated and maddened by prosperity—take Athens when its free citizens have succeeded in some of their schemes—or Koine when the victorious general distributed the spoils of his conquest—or our own country at the rejoicing on account of the restoration of Charles II., being the commencement of those scenes which produced so deleterious an influence on the British character in the reign of that monarch. What excess and riot in the festivals at these times! what an

abandonment to folly which does not even deign to wear a mask, or offer the homage which vice usually pays to virtue, by acting the hypocrite ! The pride and intemperance which prevail iu our own land, when wages are high and trade is flourishing, furnish illustrations of the same tendency in our nature.

Both poles, the negative as well as the positive, are surcharged with deleterious influences and fatal power. A nation in extreme poverty—abandoned by the stream of wealth which at " one time fertilized it—devastated by the inroads of war, or con-